

ABDUL HAMID'S ARCHIVES.

"A REGULAR PANDORA'S BOX."

Telegraphing from Constantinople on May 12, the "Daily Telegraph's" correspondent says:—

It will be remembered that when the Young Turks captured Yildiz last year, besides jewels and treasure, they entered into the possession of the whole collection of secret reports and delations which had accumulated there during over a quarter of a century, thanks to the activity and industry of Abdul Hamid's secret agents. These archives of treachery, corruption, and intrigue have not yet even been counted, but their bulk fills 360 odd cases, which have been stored at the War Office. A Special Commission is at present engaged in classifying and registering these reports, but has been able to examine only about half so far.

This heritage of the old regime is threatening to prove a regular Pandora's box for the new Government. The archives contain evidence and records of the shame of so many officials and others who yielded to the corruption of the secret service, that their publication would create incredible confusion and general consternation. Very few officials under Abdul Hamid were able to resist the temptation to do a little spy-work; it was one of the only ways of securing advancement, and it is stated that many deputies, senators, Ambassadors, even Ministers, as well as numerous less important officials, have cause to dread the revelations of the Yildiz archives. It will

portant officials, have cause to dread the revelations of the Yildiz archives. It will be seen, therefore, that the disposal of these reports is a serious question.

As yet the Government has given no indication of its intentions in this matter. But there have already been some unpleasant incidents in this connection, and a whole sitting of the Chamber was wasted the other day in a bootless discussion of the question. One of the deputies was accused by another of being a *djournalджи*, or delator; he defied his accuser to prove it, and the latter repeated his charge, and added that certain other deputies had likewise been "informers." He was proceeding to name them when interrupted and prevented by the leader of the majority, but nevertheless his words gave rise to a tremendous storm.

It was proposed to invite the Government to publish all the reports seized at Yildiz, but the President of the Chamber was able to adjourn the vote, and it is probable that a decision will not be taken for some time to come. Under the circumstances, it is generally felt that the best thing which could happen would be the destruction of all these damaging records of an unsavoury past; certainly, it is most unfair that the party in power should attempt to make political capital out of these documents against its opponents, or use them as a handle against persons whom it wishes to coerce or overthrow, as in the case of Ferid Pasha, late Minister of the Interior.

ABDUL HAMID'S ESPIONAGE

CLASSIFYING SECRET DOCUMENTS.

CONSTERNATION AMONG OFFICIALS.

LONDON, May 19.

A commission is classifying 300 of the secret reports belonging to the late Sultan of Turkey, Abdul Hamid, seized in Yildiz Kiosk. Threats to publish the reports are causing consternation, as the records incriminate so many officials that publication will create general confusion.

There has been an acrimonious debate on the subject in the Chamber of Deputies where the Grand Vizier Hakki Pasha spoke in favour of the destruction of the records of the unsavoury past.

EX - SULTAN'S JOURNALS.
PUBLICATION DECIDED.
EXTORTIONS AND INTRIGUES.

Constantinople, Jan. 6.

The Turkish Government has decided to publish the journals of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, with five hundred boxes of memoranda found in a chamber near his bedroom in the Yildiz Kiosk. They reveal an extraordinary story of extortions and political intrigues extending over thirty-three years.